

Rockwood (Shipley-Bringhurst-Hargraves Mansion)
610 Shipley Road
Wilmington Vicinity
New Castle County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-186

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE DELAWARE	COUNTY NEW CASTLE	TOWN OR VICINITY WILMINGTON VICINITY
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) ROCKWOOD (named by original owner because of terrain)		HABS NO. DE-186
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE SHIPLEY-BRINGHURST-HARGRAVES MANSION		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 610 Shipley Road		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1851-55 (family papers, original drawings)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) George Williams (original drawings)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Designed for Joseph Shipley, a member of one of the leading Quaker mill-owning families in the area, Rockwood is an unusually complete and effective statement of early Victorian taste in the tradition of A.J. Downing and John Claudius Loudon. The mansion house (cont.)		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Rural Gothic		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Granite bearing walls on granite foundation, wood joists and floors, metal roof, wood windows and doors; wood trim, porches and entrance portico; frame, glass and cast iron conservatory		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Assymetrical, 257' X 73' overall		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Dark gray rusticated Brandywine granite walls with dressed light gray granite quoins, window and door surrounds, carved wooden bargeboards with finials and pendants, standing seam tin roof marked by many cross-gables, 3 of which have half-timber work, 6 triple-stack (cont.)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) The plan of the original house is organized with a central axis running from the entrance door through a small anteroom to French doors centered on the garden front. The anteroom is flanked by the drawing room and dining room. The entrance hall/stair hall is (cont.)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Second story added to the west wing, 1856; wing extended to the west, 1912		
PRESENT CONOITION AND USE The house is presently a museum administered by the New Castle County Department of Parks and Recreation. They are restoring it. It is in good to excellent condition.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The estate, which originally consisted of about 211 acres, has a porter's lodge, a stable, a carriage house and a gardener's cottage as well as the mansion house.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register of Historic Places; Delaware Cultural Resouse Survey (N-435) Records on file at the Museum		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Joan N. Larrivee, State of Delaware, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs		DATE May 22, 1986

SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

reflects both early Victorian romanticism and the picturesque merger of irregular architecture and naturalistic landscape. When taken in conjunction, the architecture, the plan, the garden and the remaining furnishings depict a total physical sensibility that is fast vanishing from America.

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (cont.)

brick chimney stacks, single, triple or quadruple-pane wooden casement sash, a row of French doors on the first and second floor along the garden facade opening onto a wooden verandah, a wood-frame and cast iron, glassed conservatory with cast iron parapet, Western stick-style open porch and frame oriel windows on the later addition.

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (cont.)

large and is located behind these rooms and the library. The plan is assymmetrical except for the three rooms opening onto the verandah. The second floor bedrooms follow the same general plan. The architectural detail in the house reflects a combination of Jacobean, Georgian and Greek Revival motifs. In size and proportion the stairhall is the most impressive room. The ceiling rises 2 stories and has a heavy cornice. The room is girded on two sides with an oak staircase and on the other two sides by a second floor balcony. In contrast to the other rooms, the dining room is Gothic in character and has a fireplace with a Tudor arch opening.